

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 6980

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, MNUC

SUBJECT: DECEMBER 16 NPG STAFF GROUP MEETING

REF: A. NPG(STAFF GROUP)N(74)119

B. NPG/WP(74)9

C. USNATO 6952

D. USNATO 6799

E. USNATO 6945

NPG(STAFF GROUP)N(74)116

G. USNATO 6572

SUMMARY. AT DECEMBER 16 MEETING, NPG STAFF GROUP DISCUSSED WORK PROGRAM LEADING TO SPRING 1975 MINISTERIAL MEETING AND PROCEDURAL ASPECTS OF HANDLING OF THE NUNN AMENDMENT IN THE NPG. SG ALSO DISCUSSED PREPARATION OF ANNUAL NPG REPORT TO THE NUCLEAR DEFENSE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (NDAC) AND AGREED TO RETURN TO THIS QUESTION AT ITS NEXT MEETING ON JANUARY 6. END SUMMARY.

1. AT DECEMBER 16 MEETING, NPG STAFF GROUP (SG) DISCUSSED  
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A PAPER ISSUED BY IS SETTING OUT PRINCIPAL TASKS REQUIRED TO PREPARE FOR THE SPRING 1975 NPG MINISTERIAL MEETING (REF A- POUCHED TO STATE AND DEFENSE). SG AGREED THAT THE NPG MIGHT INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS, IDENTIFIED IN REF A,

ON THE SPRING 1975 MINISTERIAL AGENDA:

- BRIEFING ON THE BALANCE OF STRATEGIC FORCES;
- COMMUNICATING NATOS INTENTIONS TO USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS;
- ILLUSTRATIVE STUDY: AIR DEFENSE USE;
- FOLLOW ON USE PHASE II REPORT;
- FOLLOW UP DISCUSSION OF US REPORT ON NUCLEAR ASPECTS OF THE NUNN AMENDMENT;
- PRELIMINARY REPORT ON WINTEX 75.

SG CHAIRMAN (SHEARER) CALLED ATTENTION TO CONNECTION BETWEEN SUBJECTS SUCH AS NUNN REPORT, PHASE II OF THE FOLLOW ON USE STUDY PROGRAM, AND THE NPG TECHNOLOGY STUDY. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SUCH SUBJECTS REMAINS UNCLEAR, BUT THAT THERE SHOULD BE FRUITFUL INTERACTIONS BETWEEN THEM. HE NOTED THAT THEY CONSTITUTE AN AMBITIOUS WORK PROGRAM FOR THE MONTHS IMMEDIATELY AHEAD.

2. SHEARER SAID THAT SEVERAL DELEGATIONS HAD REQUESTED AN EXTENSION OF SYG LUNS JANUARY 20 DEADLINE FOR NATIONAL COMMENTS ON THE PHASE II PRELIMINARY REPORT (REF B). SHEARER PROPOSED AN EXTENSION TO FEBRUARY 7 WHICH SG ACCEPTED. US REP (WOODWORTH) SAID THAT PHASE II STUDY TEAM WOULD BE PREPARED TO MEET WITH STAFF LEVEL REPRESENTATIVES FROM NPG DELEGATIONS AND CAPITALS PRIOR TO SUBMISSION OF NATIONAL COMMENTS TO DISCUSS THE REPORT AND ANSWER QUESTIONS. SG REPS WELCOMED THIS OFFER AND SUGGESTED JANUARY 20 AS DATE FOR SUCH A MEETING. SEVERAL REPS ALSO URGED THAT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE FULL STUDY PANEL OF THE NPG TECHNOLOGY STUDY TAKE PLACE DURING THE SAME WEEK FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF REPRESENTATIVES TRAVELING FROM CAPITALS. FYI. MISSION REQUESTED, IN REF C, WASHINGTON GUIDANCE ON DATES FOR FIRST MEETING OF FULL STUDY PANEL. END FYI.

3. SHEARER RAISED SUBJECT OF PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING DEVELOPMENT OF POLITICAL VIEWS REQUESTED BY US ON NUCLEAR ASPECTS OF THE NUNN AMENDMENT. HE POINTED OUT THAT SYG LUNS PO ON THIS SUBJECT (REF D) AND THE NPG MINISTERIAL AGREED MINUTE CONFIDENTIAL

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(REF E) PROVIDE A ROLE FOR NPG PERM REPS, BUT THAT DETAILED OF HOW THAT ROLE WOULD BE CARRIED OUT REMAINED TO BE DETERMINED. SEVERAL SG REPS RAISED QUESTION OF WHETHER NPG COUNTRIES WOULD WISH TO FOLLOW STANDARD NPG PROCEDURE OF PREPARATION OF A PERM REPS REPORT, OR SOME ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURE. FRG REP (COL MERKEL) SAID THAT NPG COUNTRIES MAY WISH TO HAVE A CLEARER PICTURE OF THE NATURE OF THE REPORT SUBMITTED BY MILITARY AUTHORITIES BEFORE DECIDING ON PROCEDURES. US REP SAID HE THOUGHT NPG PERM REPS WOULD WISH TO TAKE UP IMPORTANT QUESTION OF PROCEDURES THEMSELVES, AND THAT THE STAFF GROUP COULD NOT ANSWER THIS QUESTION. HE AGREED WITH FRG REP THAT PERM REPS MAY NOT WISH TO DECIDE ON PROCEDURES UNTIL JANUARY, ADDING THAT IN THE MEANTIME NPG DELE-

GATIONS MAY WISH TO DUSCUSS THIS SUBJECT WITH THEIR AUTHORITIES.

4. CANADIAN REP (BECKETT) RAISED QUESTION OF DISPOSITION OF DRAFT NPG REPORT TO THE NDAC (REF F- POUCHED TO STATE AND DEFENSE), NOTING THAT SG HAD EARLIER DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY OF APPROVING SUCH A REPORT BY THE SILENCE PROCEDURE (PARA 5, REF G). CHAIRMAN (SHEARER) SAID THAT HE WAS PREPARED TO DROP THE REPORT SINCE IT WAS SMPLY A FORMALITY. HE ALLUDED TO DIFFICULTIES POSED BY THE QUESTION OF NDAC MEMBERSHIP, I.E. WHETHER PORTUGAL REGAREDED ITSELF AS A MEMBER OF THE NDAC, AND WHETHER PORTUGAL SHOULD RECIEVE AN NPG REPORT. SG AGREED TO GET GUIDANCE FROM THEIR CAPIALS AND TAKE UP SUBJECT AT NEXT SH MEETING ON JANUARY 6.

MISSION COMMENT: SOME NPG MEMBERS MAY WANT, AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE, AN NPG REPORT TO THE NDAC, ALTHOUGH NONE OF THE SG REPS ARGUED STRONGLY FOR ONE. CANADIAN REP TOLD U S REP PRIVATELY AFTER THE DECEMBER 16 MEETING THAT, ALTHUUGH OTTAWA WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SUCH A REPORT ON THE RECORD, HE THOUGHT HIS AUTHORITIES WOULD NOT PRESS FOR ONE IF THE US OPPOSED IT BECUASE OF THE PORTUGUESE PROBLEM. MISSION BELIEVES IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO DROP THE NPG REPORT TO THE NDAC IN ORDER TO AVOID RAISING POTENTIALLY THORNY QUESTION OF CONTINUING PORTUGUESE MEMBERSHIP ON THE NDAC. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE PRIOR TO JANUARY 6. BRUCE

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